Application No.: 09/901,187

Art Unit: 1646

REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement of priority based on previously filed provisional applications 60/217,319 and 60/279,199. Applicants request reconsideration of the subject application based on the following remarks.

Claims 33 thru 38 are currently pending in the application. Claims 33 and 34 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 35 and 38 have been amended.

Support for the amendments to the claims can be found throughout the application as filed. No new matter has been added by the amendments to the specification or the claims.

Applicants have amended the Brief Description of the Drawings to refer to each Figure in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(u) (1).

Applicants have amended the Title of the Invention to be clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claims 33, 34 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Applicants have canceled claims 33 and 34, and have amended claim 38 to redirect its dependency. The basis for rejection is thereby obviated. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration.

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Claims 34-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claim 34 is indefinite for the recitation of "NAC portion" since the full name of the acronym should be presented at first appearance. Claims 35-37 are indefinite for being dependent from an indefinite claim.

Applicants have canceled claims 33 and 34, and have amended claim 38 to redirect its dependency. The basis for rejection is thereby obviated. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Early consideration and allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: //-/7-03

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